

**Beginning September 1, 2004  
Additional \$100-dollar fee  
for applicants for Student Visa, (SEVIS)**

Applicants for F-1, M-1 visas and most applicants for J-1 visa, who were given forms I-20 or DS-2019 after September 1, 2004 must make an additional payment of \$100 for SEVIS. This payment will have to be made directly to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The payment must be made prior to the issuance of the visa. The fastest way to pay this fee is by using a credit card through a webpage designed by DHS: [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com).

Only the main applicant (F-1, M-1, and J-1) is required to pay the fee for SEVIS. Although applicants for F-2, M-2, and J-2 will also have their individual SEVIS forms, they are not required to pay the fee.

Applicants can schedule an appointment for their interview prior to paying the new SEVIS fee, but the visa will not be issued until the applicant shows the Consular Officer the receipt demonstrating the payment was already made. There are two ways for applicants to show the payment was made: (1) to bring the receipt and present it during the interview; or, (2) if the payment was made more than three days prior to the interview, the Consular Officer will be able to see the payment registered in SEVIS' data base. It is advisable that applicants take their receipts to the interview to avoid delays in the process, in case the payment cannot be verified, due to any reason, in the database. The SEVIS fee will not be reimbursed even if the visa is denied.

Some applicants for J-1 visa are exempted from this payment. J-1 participants sponsored by the federal government to participate in educational or exchange programs and whose DS-2019 form has a program number G-00001, G-00002 or G-00003 are exempted from this new fee. J-1 visa applicants that travel to the United States for a short period of time as "au-pairs," camp counselors, or under a summer work/travel program will pay only \$35.

Most applicants will pay the new \$100 fee for SEVIS only once and it will cover the administrative costs of the "Student and Exchange Visitor Information System" (SEVIS). F-1 and M-1 visa applicants will pay only once for each "program" they participate in. F-1 and M-1 programs start when a student is given a visa, and it ends when the student leaves this migratory status, when he/she changes his/her migratory status, or when he/she leaves the United States for an extended period of time. Therefore, a student with F or M visa will not be required to pay another fee to have his visa renewed in order to continue his/her program, to change school, to change educational level, to be absent for a period under five months, or to receive permission to be absent for a longer period provided that the student is involved in studies abroad as part of the requirements of the educational program. For J-1 visa applicants, a "program" is defined by the category and/or the responsible officer of his/her program. Some examples of category changes or responsible officer that will require the payment of another SEVIS fee are: (1) change from researcher to student; (2) change of category J-1 to F-1 or M-1; and (3) transference from an exempted responsible officer to another non-exempted responsible officer.

For more information, visit [www.ice.gov/graphics/news/factsheets/SEVISFactSheet.htm](http://www.ice.gov/graphics/news/factsheets/SEVISFactSheet.htm).